

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): ~~A clip adapted for use in connection with a~~ A pack intended to store and carry articles and adapted to be carried by a user in an over-the-back relationship, the pack including a clip comprising an elongate continuous strip of material which has been bent and shaped to define a an elongate central body and a pair of rigid spaced-apart arms extending outwardly from opposed ends of the central body and adapted to rest or engage against the waist and/or hips of the user, the pack defining a shell, a generally vertical front panel and a generally horizontal closed bottom panel and generally vertical opposed side panels defining respective interior faces, and an interior, the clip being ~~adapted to be~~ located within the interior of the pack in a relationship wherein the central body extends through the interior of the pack from a point adjacent the interior face of one of the side panels to a point adjacent the interior face of the other of the side panels and in a generally horizontal relationship along the bottom panel of the pack and the arms protrude from opposed ends of the central body in a generally horizontal relationship from within the interior of the pack through openings defined in the front panel of the pack in a direction generally normal to the generally vertical front panel, the pack further defining a pair of sleeves extending outwardly from said openings defined in the shell and the arms of said clip being adapted to extend through said sleeves respectively.

Claim 2 (cancelled): The clip of claim 1 wherein the article defines a shell and the clip is associated with the article in a manner wherein the pair of rigid, spaced-apart arms protrude generally outwardly from the shell of the pack and are adapted to engage the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 3 (cancelled): The clip of claim 2 wherein the shell of the article defines an interior, the clip being adapted to be located within the interior of

the article in a relationship wherein the arms thereof protrude through openings defined in the shell of the article.

Claim 4 (cancelled): The clip of claim 3 wherein the article defines a pair of sleeves extending outwardly from said openings defined in the shell and the arms of said clip are adapted to extend through said sleeves respectively.

Claim 5 (currently amended): The clip of claim 1 wherein ~~he~~ the arms are adapted to exert a compressive force against the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 6 (currently amended): ~~A clip adapted for use in connection with a pack~~ intended to be carried by a user in an over-the-back relationship, the pack ~~comprising a~~ defining an interior shell including ~~comprised of~~ a generally vertical front panel adapted to rest against the back of the user ~~and~~ a closed bottom panel defining an interior surface, a pair of opposed side panels, and a back panel, the pack including a clip being defined by a generally U-shaped continuous strip of material extending along the bottom panel of the pack in a generally horizontal relationship and being defined by a generally arcuate and elongate central body which extends through the interior shell and is seated against the interior face of the bottom panel and a pair of rigid spaced-apart arms extending outwardly from opposed ends of the central body and protruding through respective openings defined in the front panel of the pack in a relationship and direction generally normal to the front panel of the pack and adapted to rest or engage against the waist and/or hips of the user wherein the arms are adapted to be flexed laterally away from each other for adjusting the width of said clip, said arms being further adapted to spring back towards each other and exert a compressive force against the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 7 (cancelled) A back pack adapted to be carried by a user in an over-the-back relationship and comprising a support member associated therewith and defining a pair of spaced-apart arms adapted to rest against the waist and/or hips of the user, the back pack further comprising an interior, a generally vertical front panel, and a generally horizontal closed bottom panel, said pair of

spaced-apart arms being made of a rigid and flexible material and extending outwardly from opposed ends of a lower portion of said front panel in a generally horizontal relationship and direction normal to the front panel, the arms being adapted to be flexed laterally away from each other for adjusting the width of said support member, said arms being further adapted to spring back towards each other and into engagement with the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 8 (cancelled): The back pack of claim 7 wherein said support member defines a clip and said arms are adapted to exert a compressive force against the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 9 (cancelled): The back pack of claim 8 wherein the clip includes a generally arcuate central body extending in a generally horizontal relationship along the bottom panel of the bag and interconnecting said pair of arms at opposed ends of said central body.

Claim 10 (cancelled): The article of claim 7 defining an interior and including a front face defining a pair of apertures therein, said support member being located within the interior of the article and said arms extending through said respective apertures defined in the front face of the article.

Claim 11 (cancelled): The article of claim 7 defining an interior and including a front face defining a pair of outwardly extending hollow sleeves, said support member being located within the interior of the article in a manner wherein the respective arms extend through said respective sleeves.

Claim 12 (cancelled): A support member adapted for use with a golf bag defining an outer surface and including a handle defining a central through opening and adapted to be grasped by a user for carrying the golf bag, the support member defining a clip suspended from the through opening of the handle of the golf bag, the clip being pivotable about the handle between a first position wherein said arms are positioned adjacent the outer surface of the bag and a second position wherein the clip and the arms thereof have been rotated away from the outer surface into engagement with the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 13 (cancelled): The article of claim 7 defining a golf bag including a handle and a front face, the support member defining a clip associated with the front face and pivotable therefrom between a first position wherein the arms thereof are positioned generally parallel to the front face and a second position wherein the arms are positioned generally normal to the front face and adapted to engage the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 14 (cancelled): The article of claim 7 defining a golf bag including a handle and an outer surface and the support member includes a frame surrounded by a sleeve defining said arms and an arcuate notch therebetween, the member extending generally outwardly from the handle in a relationship generally tangent to the outer surface of the golf bag for engagement with the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 15 (currently amended): A pack adapted to be carried by a user and adapted to carry articles and comprising:

a shell defining an interior adapted to receive and store the articles, the interior being defined by a front panel including an outer surface, a ~~hollow interior~~ a back panel, a bottom panel, a pair of opposed side panels, and a longitudinal axis extending through the shell and the bottom panel in a direction and orientation normal to the bottom panel;

a support member including a central base and a pair of spaced-apart arms which together form a unitary piece, the central base being located and extending within the interior of the pack in a generally horizontal relationship and direction generally normal to both the ~~direction of the~~ longitudinal axis of the shell and the opposed side panels, defining a pair of the spaced-apart arms extending from within the interior of the pack through apertures defined in the front panel of said pack in a generally horizontal relationship and in a direction generally normal to the longitudinal axis of said shell, said arms being adapted to abut the waist and/or hips of the user; and

a pair of sleeves in communication with said apertures defined in the outer surface of said pack and extending outwardly from said outer surface of said front panel of said pack in a direction and relationship generally normal to the longitudinal axis of said shell, said arms of said support member extending through said sleeves.

Claim 16 (cancelled): The pack of claim 15 further including a pair of sleeves in communication with said apertures, said arms extending through said sleeves.

Claim 17 (currently amended): The pack of claim 15 wherein said ~~support member defines a clip including a base located within~~ central base extends through the interior of the pack from a point adjacent one of the opposed side panels to a point adjacent the other of the opposed side panels and ~~extending~~ extends in a generally horizontal relationship along the bottom panel of the pack, said arms extending unitarily outwardly from opposed ends of said base and being adapted to flex towards and away from each other.

Claim 18 (cancelled): The pack of claim 17 wherein said arms are collapsible.

Claim 19 (previously presented): A pack adapted to be mounted and carried over the back of a user and comprising:

a shell defining an outer surface and a hollow interior;

a support member located within the interior of the pack and defining a pair of spaced-apart arms extending through apertures defined in the outer surface of said pack, said arms being adapted to abut against the waist, hips and/or back of the user; and

a strap associated with said support member and extending between and interconnecting said arms, said strap being located between the pack and the back of the user and the arms being adapted for pivotal movement towards each other in response to a rearward lateral movement of said strap when said pack is mounted over the back of the user and said strap comes into abutting relationship with the back of the user.

Claim 20 (cancelled): The pack of claim 17 wherein said clip is made of a shape memory alloy.

Claim 21 (cancelled): A golf bag adapted to be carried by an individual in a generally vertical over-the-back relationship, the golf bag including a front panel defining an outer surface and adapted to rest against the back of the individual carrying the golf bag, a pair of shoulder straps secured to the outer surface of the front panel, an open top end, a closed bottom end, and a longitudinal axis extending through the open top end and closed bottom end of the golf bag, the golf bag further comprising a support member defined by a continuous, generally U-shaped strip of material which has been bent and shaped to define an arcuate central body and a pair of spaced-apart, generally parallel arms extending outwardly from respective opposed ends of said central body, said central body of said support member being secured to the front panel of the golf bag at a point along the longitudinal axis of the golf bag whereby, with the golf bag being carried by its shoulder straps in said over-the-back relationship, the body of said support member rests against the small of the back of the individual carrying the golf bag and the arms are adapted to rest against the waist and/or hips of the individual, the arms being adapted to be flexed laterally away from each other for adjusting the width of said support member, said arms being further adapted to spring back towards each other and into contact with the waist and/or hips of the user.

Claim 22 (cancelled): The support member of claim 21 adapted to be secured to the handle of the golf bag.

Claim 23 (cancelled): The golf bag of claim 22 wherein the support member defines a clip which is pivotable about the front panel of the golf bag between a first disengaged position adjacent the outer surface of the golf bag and second position in engagement with the waist and/or hips of the individual carrying the golf bag.

Claim 24 (cancelled): The support member of claim 23 wherein the arms are flexible towards and away from each other.

Claim 25 (cancelled): The golf bag of claim 24 wherein the arms are adapted to exert a compressive force against the waist and/or hips of the individual carrying the golf bag.

Claim 26 (cancelled): The golf bag of claim 25 wherein the arms are made from a shape memory material.

Claim 27 (cancelled): The golf bag of claim 24 wherein a strap extends between and interconnects the arms, the arms being pivotable towards each other in response to the lateral movement of said strap.

Claim 28 (cancelled): The support member of claim 22 wherein said arms are defined by a frame, said frame being adapted to extend outwardly from the outer surface of said golf bag.

Claim 29 (cancelled): The support member of claim 28 wherein the frame comprises a continuous bar or rod of material which has bent and shaped to define an upper frame portion, a pair of arms extending unitary outwardly and downwardly from the ends of the frame portion, and a lower frame portion unitary with and extending between the arms and defining a notch.

Claim 30 (cancelled): The support member of claim 21 wherein the frame is surrounded by a protective sleeve defining a notch.